M.R.O. 1—77,006—8-6-37.

(1) Number of pages 6

(2) Date of repair

(3) Initials of the Referencer

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

P.W. Public works DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1240	Press ~~Mis.~~
80-81	
Dated 4-5-	1871.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
4th May **1871.**

No. 80. Read the following letter from the Acting Superintending Engineer, 8th Division, to the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Madura, 22nd April 1871, No. 214 :—

It is with much regret that I have the honour to report that I have considered it necessary to suspend Supervisor Mr. J. P. Martin, in charge of No. 3 Range, Madura, from all duties in this division.

2. During the last three years there have been frequent petitions to the head of this office on the subject of Mr. Martin's conduct of the range duties. And recently these have assumed so serious a shape that I considered it my duty to proceed to Shevagungah and investigate the same personally.

3. The result of a somewhat protracted investigation, which I have now made into the manner in which the duties of the range are at present conducted, is to satisfy myself that gross irregularities are being carried on; and these added to Mr. Martin's intemperate habits prove him to be wholly unfit for the position of trust and importance in which he now finds himself placed as Range Officer.

4. You are aware that, in consequence of the range consisting only of the Zemindaries of Shevagungah and Ramnad, and that as the whole of the irrigation works of the range are comprised in four small Government tanks situated in the Ramnad Zemindary, the work of the range is, as a rule, simply road work, and as the maintenance of the district roads is in the hands of the Revenue Department, the actual work of the range, in spite of its large area, is really trifling, and certainly is not such as, in my opinion, to require or justify the appointment of a substitute to Mr. Martin; but that, on the contrary, the range can with manifest advantage be amalgamated with No. 1 Range, Madura.

5. For these reasons I have deputed Assistant Engineer Mr. G. R. Leggatt to proceed to Shevagungah and take over charge of the range, and to complete the investigations which, highly important as they are, the many other onerous duties connected with my office preclude me from continuing myself.

6. I have no hesitation in saying that anything more scandalous in the administration of a range it would be difficult to conjecture. Among other gross irregularities, for instance, which I have detected, I find that a dummy, or fictitious, contractor is in the habit of submitting fictitious bills, bearing fictitious, *i. e.*, forged, signatures. Indeed, the only thing not fictitious about the whole proceeding would appear to be the Government rupees, which are plundered in the process.

7. I shall do myself the honour of submitting in due course, for the orders of Government, a detailed account of these transactions, and of the present general aspect of the range, and I feel satisfied that the Government will agree with me in considering that caustic measures are required to bring the range into a satisfactory state.

No. 81. Order thereon, 4th May 1871, No. 1,240.

ESTABLISHMENT, No. 8.

Under the circumstances brought to notice in this letter the Government

approve of the suspension of Mr. Supervisor Martin and the amalgamation of Nos. 1 and 3 Ranges of the Madura District, and they will await a report on the result of the investigation into the irregularties practised by Mr. Martin.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) J. CARPENDALE, Colonel, R. E.,
Secretary to Government.

To the Acting Superintending Engineer, 8th Division.
,, Controller of Public Works Accounts.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

No. 214

Madura
22nd April 1871

From
Lieut. Col R A Roberts RE
Ag Superintg. Engineer 8 Dn

To
Colonel C A Orr RE
Secretary to Government DPW

Sir,

It is with much regret that I have the honor to report that I have considered it necessary to suspend Supervisor Mr J P Martin, in charge of No 3 Range, Madura, from all duties in this Division.

2 During the last 3 years there have been frequent petitions to the Head of this Office on the subject of Mr. Martin's conduct of the Range duties. And recently these have assumed so serious a shape that I considered it my duty to proceed to Sheragungah and investigate the same personally.

3 The result of a somewhat protracted investigation, which I have

now made into the manner in which the duties of the Range are at present conducted, is to satisfy myself that gross irregularities are being carried on; and these added to Mr. Martin's intemperate habits prove him to be wholly unfit for the position of trust and importance in which he now finds himself placed as Range Officer.

4. You are aware that, in consequence of the Range consisting only of the Zemindaries of Shevagungah and Ramnad, and that as the whole of the irrigation works of the Range are comprised in 4 small Government tanks situated in the Ramnad Zemindary, the work of the Range is, as a rule, simply road work, and as the maintenance of the District roads is in the hands of the Revenue Department, the actual work of the Range, in spite of its large area, is really trifling and certainly is not such as, in my opinion, to require, or justify, the appointment

of a substitute to Mr Martin; But that on the contrary the Range can with manifest advantage be amalgamated with No 1 Range Madura.-

5 For these reasons I have deputed Assistant Engineer Mr G A Leggatt to proceed to Sheragungah, and take over charge of the Range, and to complete the investigations which, highly important as they are, the many other onerous duties connected with my Office preclude me from continuing myself.

6 I have no hesitation in saying that anything more scandalous in the administration of a Range it would be difficult to conjecture. Among other gross irregularities, for instance, which I have detected, I find that a dummy, or fictitious, contractor is in the habit of submitting fictitious bills, bearing fictitious, i.e. forged, signatures. Indeed the only thing not fictitious about

the whole proceeding would appear to be the Government Rupees which are plundered in the process.

7. I shall do myself the honor of submitting in due course for the orders of Government a detailed account of these transactions, and of the present general aspect of the Range, and I feel satisfied that the Government will agree with me in considering that caustic measures are required to bring the Range into a satisfactory state.

The total sa[illegible]
from orders [illegible]
10 months [illegible]
Rs. 16,607-

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your Most Obedient Servt.

Richd. H. Roberts Lieut. Col. Art.
Ag. Superintg. Engineer 8th Dn.

F
4

PW 1871 Dept. Ag. 1st Proy.
Pro. of Agri. for No. 1851.

From,
The Asst. Supdg. Engineer
8th Division

To,
The Secretary to
Government
D.P.W.

Dated 22nd }
Received 26 } April 1871.

No. 1240 - 4 May/71

Brings to notice the conduct of the Supervisor in charge of 3rd Range Madura & states that for the reason herein assigned, he has deputed Asst. Engr. Mr Leggatt to take over charge of the 3rd Range & to complete the investigation in all matters connected with the Range. Suggests that the Range be amalgamated with the 1st Range Madura.

No. 80

Cog. Abl/71 Q. 3rd Line

Public Works Department

No 1240.

Proceedings of the Madras Government

Under date the 4 ~~April~~ May 1871

Read ~~the following~~

From The Actg Supg Engineer 8th Dn } H. E. No 214 of 22nd April/71

The total expenditure for Martin during Eleven (11) months of the fiscal year was [illegible] more than Rs [illegible]

[illegible]

Under the circumstances brought to notice in this letter the Government approve of the suspension of Mr Supervisor Martin and the amalgamation of Nos 1 and 3 Ranges of the Madura District, and they will await a report on the result of the investigation into the

irregularities practised by Mr Martin

25/3

S. Engr 8th Div
Controller

Enfant 3/5/21

C29 AHL/71 Q. 2nd Inst

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Further Rec 13 1664 $20-6-71

X

No. 7851

Govt. of 1871 Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To The Actg. Superintending Engr.
8th Division

Dated

Recd. Encl.

G. O. 10th May 1871, No. 1240

Nos. 80 & 81

Mr. Supervisor Martin. The suspension of Mr. Martin & the amalgamation of Nos. 1 and 3 Ranges of the Madura District, approved, & a report on the result of the investigation into the irregularities practised by ~~the~~ the Supervisor awaited.